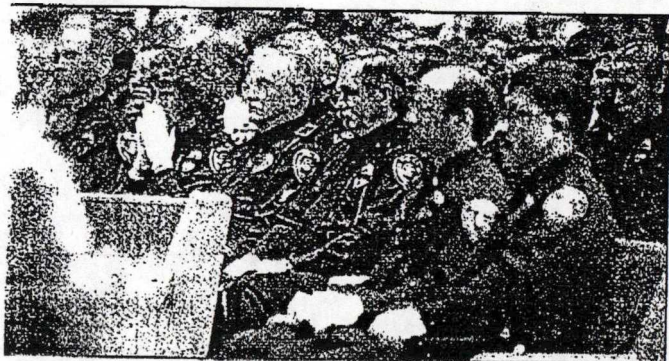


Police Officer Dan Seely at the memorial service Tuesday night.

## honor Dan Seely er than resentment for his death'



Arers who were police academy mates of Officer Dan Seely sit in the ow at Anchorage Baptist Temple. Afterward a police motorcade escort-ly's body and widow to Anchorage International Airport.

## Bomb's radiation remains

Greenpeace wants  
Amchitka watched

By DON HUNTER  
Daily News reporter

Testing this summer on the Aleutian island of Amchitka by the environmental organization Greenpeace detected radiation leakage from underground atomic explosions that occurred a quarter-century ago.

Greenpeace scientists said traces of radioactive isotopes that were supposed to be contained safely underground for thousands of years showed up in samples of moss and algae taken last June from the remote island at the end of the Aleutian chain. The findings suggest radiation may be migrating through groundwater off the island and into the rich fishery of the Bering Sea, they said.

Biologists with Greenpeace and with the Rural Alaska Community Action Program said the findings so far don't indicate an immediate threat to the people and marine life of the Aleutians. But the study underscores the need for a more comprehensive monitoring program concentrated on Amchitka, according to Pam Miller, the author of the report, and Carl Hild of RuralCAP.

After meeting with the Greenpeace scientists in Washington on Tuesday afternoon, officials with the federal Department of Energy agreed the organization's findings are disturbing and warrant a closer look at Amchitka.

Department of Energy Undersecretary Thomas Grumbly said Greenpeace has agreed to share samples taken from the island so its findings can be verified by other scientists.

Grumbly said his department will begin a new monitoring study of Amchitka next year and is immediately moving to declassify and release records on Amchitka radiation.

Grumbly said energy department scientists using Greenpeace's data calculated a "worst case exposure" from the Amchitka leakage as a tiny fraction of the exposure an average American receives annually from background radiation.

Miller said the Greenpeace study highlights the need for an independent monitoring effort directed by a panel of scientists not connected to the government. Greenpeace

Please see Back Page, AMCHITKA

## ole camp heads every which way

TEVEN THOMMA  
it-Ridder Newspapers  
ENVER — Entering the stretch of his bid for presidency, Bob Dole is quite certain where to go. ole and his top advisers



Dole's campaign in Colorado who spent the last few days setting up a rally here, switching plans from an outdoor rally to an indoor rally, from a large auditorium to a small one, from Tuesday morning to Wednesday morn-

He paused, then added with a laugh, "Is anything we do normal?"

With Clinton leading Dole in every region of the country, finding that place to land becomes increasingly difficult, like looking down on a

USEPA SF



1562713



## AMCHITKA: Radiation

Continued from Page A-1

also wants Amchitka added to the EPA's Superfund list, which could provide funding for remediation and provide public oversight.

"First we must identify the major passages of leakage," she said in a telephone interview from Washington. "We certainly found some; there could be others."

"Whatever it takes to stem the flow of radioactivity, they need to do that."

Greenpeace planned to release its report in Washington, D.C., today.

The United States detonated three underground nuclear blasts on Amchitka between October 1965 and November 1971. The first, called Long Shot, was an 80-kiloton bomb detonated in 1965; the second, 1-megaton Milrow — equal to 1 million tons of TNT — was exploded in 1969.

The last, a 5-megaton blast called Cannikin, was the largest underground nuclear test ever conducted by the United States.

The planned series, but especially the last blast, ignited a controversy in Alaska, the rest of the United States and in Canada, with some scientists warning that a 5-megaton blast could cause devastating earthquakes and long-term environmental damage. A last-minute appeal seeking to stop the test was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court on a 4-3 vote, and Cannikin was detonated at the bottom of a 5,785-foot deep shaft on Nov. 6, 1971. Greenpeace itself was spawned in the Cannikin controversy.

Monitoring conducted by the EPA and other agencies in the years since the Amchitka blasts detected traces of tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen that tends to be one of the first nuclear

environment. Tests continue to show tritium, though at levels well within drinking water standards, scientists have said.

But Greenpeace says three of the 13 samples it collected at Amchitka this summer were found to contain americium-241 and plutonium-239 and plutonium-240, all long-lived and highly toxic, and demonstrate that containment fields for both Long Shot and Cannikin are leaking.

Greenpeace says it rejected the possibility that the radiation could have come from other sources.

According to Greenpeace, after the Cannikin explosion and the resulting collapse of the bore shaft, or chimney, two forks of White Alice Creek disappeared into the depression, later emerging and forming a lake on the island. The lake began draining into the Bering Sea.

The organization faults the government's monitoring program for looking in the wrong place, looking for the wrong substances, or concealing findings.

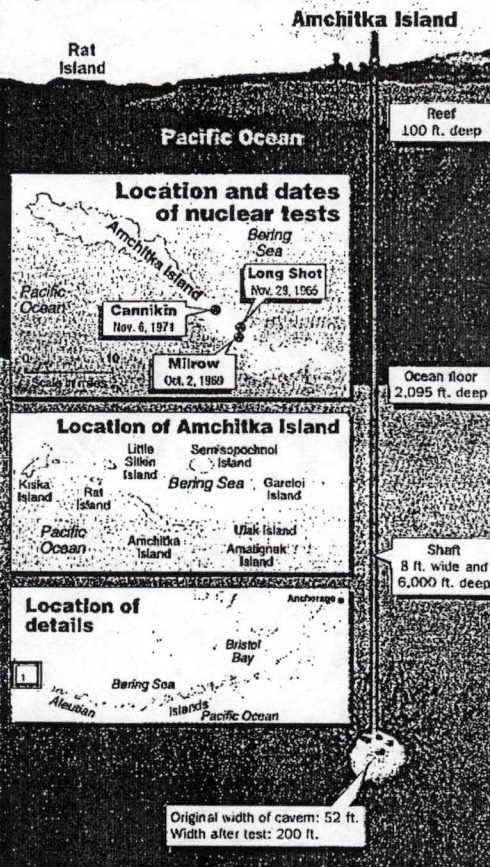
The report says Cannikin is leaking because of a design error "that put too large an explosive too close to the land surface so that mechanical containment was breached within two days of the detonation. Leakage from the Cannikin site is probably extensive, involving groundwater pathways through the bottom of Cannikin Lake."

Hild, the RuralCAP biologist, recommends long-term monitoring.

The currents that sweep past Amchitka carry nutrients into the Bering Sea, Hild said. The ocean provides a "huge dilutant factor ... but for everyone's comfort we should put into place the monitoring program the government had pledged to do, and maintain it."

## The Cannikin test

Beginning in 1965, three nuclear tests were conducted on Amchitka, a small island in the Aleutian Island chain, 1,340 miles west-southwest of Anchorage. The final test, code named Cannikin, involved a Spartan anti-ballistic missile warhead and was by far the largest underground test ever conducted by the United States. The test was considered too large to be safely conducted in Nevada.



Sources: The Nuclear Testing Program, Los Angeles Times KEVIN POWELL / Anchorage Daily News

Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, said Tuesday afternoon Murkowski's staff expects to meet with Greenpeace today.

**WE WILL CERTAINLY  
LOOK AT THE**

Greenpeace stuff seriously ... and we may ask for a peer review or just try to get money for the DOE to study the issue," press secretary Chuck

**KLEESCHKE  
SAID.**

## VOTERS: Only about half

Continued from Page A-1

says Curtis Gans, who has been thinking about voter turnout for 20 years. He directs the nonpartisan Committee for the Study of the American Electorate.

Things would even be worse if Congress hadn't enacted the motor-voter law, allowing people to register where they apply for drivers licenses and in other accessible places. That law registered between six million and nine million new voters this year.

Still, Gans predicts that turnout on Tuesday will range between the 50.1 percent participation in 1988 — the record low in modern times — and the 55.2 percent rate in 1992.

Compare that to a century

ago. In 1896, when Democrat William Jennings Bryan ran against Republican William McKinley, 79 percent turned out — including an astonishing 96 percent in Iowa and Illinois. In that year, only male citizens over age 21 were eligible to vote.

In those days, the parties differed sharply; now they often gloss over differences. Believing their well-being was at stake, whole classes of people associated with a party.

"Parties don't do mobilizing any more," says Walter Dean Burnham, voting expert at the University of Texas. "The Republicans don't mobilize the lower orders," he said, and the party that traditionally played that role, the Democrats, "became yuppified, gone upscale."

## GHOSTS: D.C. hauntings

Continued from Page A-1

He added that his dog refused to go into the Lincoln bedroom.

But John Alexander, author of "Washington's Most Famous Ghost Stories," which has been a best-seller at Smithsonian Museums since it was published in 1976, says ghost stories seem to be a dying art form today.

Alexander, whose book came out of a 1970 Halloween radio program he produced on Washington's haunted sites, said his favorite Washington ghost story involves the Capitol's "demon cat," which is one of Washington's few nonhuman ghosts and said to haunt the building's dank catafalque, built to hold the remains of George Washington in the basement under the Rotunda.

He recalls the stories of Capitol police officers' pa-

seeing a cat "swelled to the size of a tiger," with "glowing, piercing eyes," which appears when there's a change in administrations.

Alexander thinks he's traced the origins of that ghost story to Capitol police officers, who entertained themselves on night patrols trying to scare their colleagues.

"You have to imagine the days when the Capitol was lighted with flickering gas lights, and imagine how the cats cast huge shadows on the walls, and the noise," he said.

The most documented of Washington's famous ghosts is Lincoln, whose tall, bearded figure has been spotted by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, Winston Churchill and Margaret Truman. A startled Churchill ran naked into the hallways of the White House after his visit, and Queen Wilhelmina moved out of the White